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Display Date	6-20-00
Publication Date	6-21-00
Certifier	SV Reese

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 00P-0090]

Determination That Paroxetine Hydrochloride 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-Milligram Capsules Were Not Withdrawn From Sale for Reasons of Safety or Effectiveness

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has determined that paroxetine hydrochloride (Paxil) 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-milligram (mg) capsules were not withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. This determination will allow FDA to approve abbreviated new drug applications (ANDA's) for paroxetine hydrochloride 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-mg capsules.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary E. Catchings, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (HFD-7), Food and Drug Administration, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20855, 301-594-2041.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In 1984, Congress enacted the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act of 1984 (the 1984 amendments) (Public Law 98-417), which authorized the approval of duplicate versions of drug products approved under an ANDA procedure. ANDA sponsors must, with certain exceptions, show that the drug for which they are seeking approval contains the same active ingredient in the same strength and dosage form as the "listed drug," which is a version of the drug that was previously approved under a new drug application (NDA). Sponsors of ANDA's do not have to repeat the extensive clinical testing otherwise necessary to gain approval of an NDA. The only clinical data required in an ANDA are data to show that the drug that is the subject of the ANDA is bioequivalent to the listed drug.

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The 1984 amendments included what is now section 505(j)(6) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(j)(6)), which requires FDA to publish a list of all approved drugs. FDA publishes this list as part of the "Approved Drug Products with Therapeutic Equivalence Evaluations," generally known as the "Orange Book." Under FDA regulations, drugs are withdrawn from the list if the agency withdraws or suspends approval of the drug's NDA or ANDA for reasons of safety or effectiveness, or if FDA determines that the listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness (§ 314.162 (21 CFR 314.162)). Under § 314.161(a)(1) (21 CFR 314.161(a)(1)) the agency must make a determination as to whether a listed drug was withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness before an ANDA that refers to that listed drug may be approved. FDA may not approve an ANDA that does not refer to a listed drug.

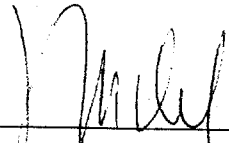
In a citizen petition dated December 28, 1999 (Docket No. 00P-0090/CP1), submitted under 21 CFR 10.25(a), 10.30, and 314.122, Pentech Pharmaceuticals, Inc., requested that the agency determine whether paroxetine hydrochloride (Paxil) 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-mg capsules were withdrawn or withheld from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. Paroxetine hydrochloride (Paxil) 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-mg capsules are the subject of approved NDA 20-885 held by SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals (SKB). SKB obtained approval to market the 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-mg strengths of paroxetine hydrochloride capsules on October 9, 1998. SKB has never marketed the 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-mg strengths of paroxetine hydrochloride capsules. FDA has determined, for purposes of §§ 314.161 and 314.162(c), that never marketing an approved drug product is equivalent to withdrawing the drug from sale.

FDA has reviewed its records and, under §§ 314.161 and 314.162(c), has determined that paroxetine hydrochloride 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-mg capsules were not withdrawn from sale for reasons of safety or effectiveness. Accordingly the agency will maintain paroxetine hydrochloride 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-mg capsules in the "Discontinued Drug Product List" section of the Orange Book. The "Discontinued Drug Product List" identifies, among other items, drug products that

have been discontinued from marketing for reasons other than safety or effectiveness. ANDA's that refer to paroxetine hydrochloride 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-mg capsules may be approved by the agency.

Dated: 6/14/00

June 14, 2000



Margaret M. Dotzel
Associate Commissioner for Policy

[FR Doc. 00-???? Filed ??-??-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

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